

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 69-81 and 96 without prejudice and add new claims 105-111 as follows:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Withdrawn) An enhanced VSB transmitter for transmitting main data and supplemental data comprising:

- a VSB pre-processor for processing the supplemental data for first forward error correction (FEC) and expanding the first FEC processed data by inserting a plurality of null bits into the first FEC processed data;

- a first multiplexer for multiplexing the main data and the expanded supplemental data;

- a VSB main processor for processing the multiplexed data for second forward error correction (FEC); and

- a data format converter for formatting the second FEC processed data for transmission and transmitting the formatted data to one or more VSB receivers.

42. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the VSB pre-processor comprises:

- a first forward error correction (FEC) coder for coding the supplemental data; and

- a null data inserter for inserting the plurality of null bits into the first FEC coded supplemental data.

43. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 42, wherein the first FEC coder is a Reed-Solomon coder.

44. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 43, wherein the supplemental data comprises X bytes and the Reed-Solomon coder provides Y parity bytes, wherein a total of X and Y bytes is 184 bytes.

45. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the plurality of null bits are arranged at alternating positions within each supplemental data.

46. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the plurality of null bits are "0".

47. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the VSB pre-processor comprises:

- a first forward error correction (FEC) coder for coding the supplemental data;
- an interleaver for interleaving the first FEC coded supplemental data; and
- a null data inserter for inserting the plurality of null bits into the interleaved supplemental data.

48. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 47, further comprising a header inserter for inserting a header into the supplemental data having the plurality of null bits.

49. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 48, wherein the header inserter adds three bytes of header information to the supplemental data having the plurality of null bits, wherein the header information contains program identification.

50. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 47, wherein the null data inserter inserts the plurality of null bits into each supplemental data in a predetermined order.

51. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the first multiplexer multiplexes the main data and the expanded supplemental data according to a predetermined multiplexing information.

52. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 51, wherein the predetermined multiplexing information is inserted in a reserved area of a field synchronizing signal or a data segment of the supplemental data.

53. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 51, wherein the predetermined multiplexing information comprises at least one of a multiplexing ratio and unit.

54. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 53, wherein the multiplexing unit and the multiplexing ratio are predetermined based on amounts of the main data and the expanded supplemental data.

55. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 53, wherein the multiplexing ratio of the expanded supplemental data to the main data in the first multiplexer is one to one.

56. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 53, wherein the multiplexing ratio of the expanded supplemental data and the main data in the first multiplexer is one to three.

57. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the first multiplexer is responsive to a field synchronizing signal used for synchronizing a data frame of the data format converter.

58. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein one field of the multiplexed data has 312 data segments and one field synchronizing segment.

59. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the main data is MPEG data.

60. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the VSB main processor comprises:

- a data randomizer for randomizing the multiplexed data;
- a Reed-Solomon coder for coding the randomized data;
- a data interleaver for interleaving the Reed-Solomon coded data; and
- a Trellis coder for converting the interleaved data into symbols.

61. (Withdrawn) The enhanced VSB transmitter of claim 41, wherein the data format converter comprises:

- a second multiplexer for multiplexing the converted symbols with a field synchronizing signal and segment synchronizing signals;
- a pilot inserter for inserting pilot signals into the multiplexed symbol data;
- a modulator for modulating the symbol data having the pilot signals into a signal of an intermediate frequency band; and
- a RF (Radio Frequency) converter for converting the modulated signal into a RF band signal for transmission.

62. (Withdrawn) A method of transmitting main data and supplemental data, the method comprising:

- pre-processing the supplemental data for first forward error correction (FEC);
- expanding the first FEC processed data by inserting null data into the first FEC processed data;
- multiplexing the main data and the expanded supplemental data;
- processing the multiplexed data for second forward error correction (FEC);
- formatting the second FEC processed data for transmission; and
- transmitting the formatted data to one or more VSB receivers.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein pre-processing the supplemental data for first forward error correction (FEC) comprises:

- subjecting the supplemental data to a Reed-Solomon coding by adding Reed-Solomon parity data to the Reed-Solomon coded supplemental data; and

interleaving the coded supplemental data.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 63, wherein an amount of the added Reed-Solomon parity data varies with an amount of the supplemental data.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein the null data is arranged at alternating positions within the first FEC processed data.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein further comprising adding headers to the expanded supplemental data.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein each header comprises an identification code identifying the expanded supplemental data.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein processing the multiplexed data for second forward error correction (FEC) comprises:

- randomizing the multiplexed data;
- performing Reed-Solomon coding to the randomized data;
- interleaving the Reed-Solomon coded data; and
- converting the interleaved data into symbols.

69-98. (Canceled)

99. (Withdrawn) A digital television (DTV) receiver that processes VSB data, the VSB data comprising:

- a plurality of main data segments, each main data segment comprising N data bytes; and

- a plurality of supplemental data segments, each supplemental data segment comprising M supplemental data bytes, wherein predefined sequences are inserted at predetermined positions within the supplemental data segments and the predefined sequences are used to enhance ghost cancellation performance of both the

supplemental data and the main data in a channel equalizer of the digital television (DTV) receiver.

100. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a digital television (DTV) signal in a DTV receiver, the method comprising:

receiving a DTV signal including a data frame, the data frame including normal data and robust data multiplexed with the normal data, wherein predefined sequences are inserted into the robust data, the normal data result from performing a forward error correction (FEC) operation once and the robust data result from performing a forward error correction (FEC) operation twice; and

performing channel equalization on the robust data in the data frame using the predefined sequences in order to enhance ghost cancellation performance of the robust data.

101. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 100, wherein the normal data comprise MPEG data.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 100, wherein the predefined sequences are inserted into the robust data periodically.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 100, wherein the FEC operation is Reed-Solomon encoding.

104. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 100, wherein the normal data and the robust data are multiplexed in the data frame at a multiplexing ratio of 1:N.

105. (New) A method of processing a digital television (DTV) signal in a DTV receiver, the method comprising:

receiving the DTV signal in the DTV receiver, the DTV signal comprising normal data and robust data multiplexed with the normal data, wherein the normal data result from performing a forward error correction (FEC) operation once and the robust data

result from pre-processing original robust data before multiplexing with the normal data by coding the original robust data for first FEC and periodically inserting predefined sequences into the robust data coded for the first FEC, and further coding the pre-processed robust data for second FEC;

performing channel equalization in the DTV receiver on the robust data in the DTV signal using the predefined sequences such that the channel equalized robust data have enhanced ghost cancellation performance; and

Reed-Solomon (RS) decoding the channel equalized robust data in the DTV receiver.

106. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein the normal data comprise MPEG data.

107. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein the predefined sequences are inserted at alternating positions in the robust data.

108. (New) The method of claim 105, wherein the normal data and the robust data are multiplexed at a multiplexing ratio of 1:N.

109. (New) A method of processing a digital television (DTV) signal in a DTV receiver, the method comprising:

receiving the DTV signal in the DTV receiver, the DTV signal comprising normal data and robust data multiplexed with the normal data, wherein the normal data result from performing a forward error correction (FEC) operation once and the robust data result from pre-processing original robust data before multiplexing with the normal data by coding the original robust data for first FEC and periodically inserting predefined sequences into the robust data coded for the first FEC, and further coding the pre-processed robust data for second FEC;

performing channel equalization in the DTV receiver on the robust data in the DTV signal using the predefined sequence such that the channel equalized robust data have enhanced ghost cancellation performance; and

trellis decoding the channel equalized robust data in the DTV receiver.

110. (New) A method of processing a digital television (DTV) signal in a DTV receiver, the method comprising:

receiving the DTV signal in the DTV receiver, the DTV signal including normal data and robust data multiplexed with the normal data, wherein the normal data results from performing an interleaving operation once and the robust data results from pre-processing original robust data before multiplexing with the normal data, coding the pre-processed robust data for second forward error correction (FEC), and interleaving the robust data coded for second FEC, wherein pre-processing the original robust data comprises coding the original robust data for first FEC, interleaving the FEC-coded robust data, and periodically inserting predefined sequences into the interleaved robust data; and

performing channel equalization in the DTV receiver on the robust data in the DTV signal using the predefined sequences such that the channel equalized robust data have enhanced ghost cancellation performance; and

Reed-Solomon (RS) decoding the channel equalized robust data in the DTV receiver.

111. (New) A method of processing a digital television (DTV) signal in a DTV receiver, the method comprising:

receiving the DTV signal in the DTV receiver, the DTV signal including normal data and robust data multiplexed with the normal data, wherein the normal data results from performing an interleaving operation once and the robust data results from pre-processing original robust data before multiplexing with the normal data, coding the pre-processed robust data for second forward error correction (FEC), and interleaving the robust data coded for second FEC, wherein pre-processing the original robust data comprises coding the original robust data for first FEC, interleaving the FEC-coded robust data, and periodically inserting predefined sequences into the interleaved robust data; and

performing channel equalization in the DTV receiver on the robust data in the DTV signal using the predefined sequences such that the channel equalized robust data have enhanced ghost cancellation performance; and
trellis decoding the channel equalized robust data in the DTV receiver.